

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 52

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Sergeant Floyd G. Knighten, Jr.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army National Guard Sergeant Floyd G. Knighten, Jr., upon his death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and the most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the tragic death of Sergeant Knighten; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Knighten was a native of Olla and had served in the armed forces of his country since high school; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Knighten had first served in the United States Navy before he joined the National Guard as a full-time soldier; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Knighten was a member of the 1087<sup>th</sup> Transportation Support Company based at Fort Polk where he worked to keep all the unit's vehicles in good working order; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Knighten's son, Specialist Floyd G. Knighten, III, was assigned to the same transportation unit with the elder Knighten repairing the vehicles and his son assigned to drive them, making them a truly unique father and son team in the entire Iraqi Theater of Operations; and

WHEREAS, when Sergeant Knighten's unit was deployed to Iraqi, unlike most of

1 his comrades who flew to the combat zone, Sergeant Knighten sailed by military transport  
2 with the vehicles he was responsible for maintaining, recalled his wife, Lisa, who said "he  
3 was really looking forward to that because he was in the Navy originally"; and

4 WHEREAS, Sergeant Knighten loved his family and friends he had left at home and  
5 missed them dearly during his tour of duty, he loved his country and felt it was an honor to  
6 be a part of his nation's war on terror, fighting the enemies of his beloved American  
7 homeland; and

8 WHEREAS, Sergeant Knighten always placed the needs of his country, his unit, and  
9 his men above his own needs and personal interests, knowing exactly why he was in the Iraqi  
10 Theater of Operations and concerned primarily with the reliability of the vehicles he  
11 maintained and the safety and well being of the men who drove those vehicles over the  
12 dangerous, dusty, desert roads of Iraq; and

13 WHEREAS, Sergeant Knighten was 55 years old when he embarked on a convoy  
14 operation on August 9, 2003, traveling in the sweltering desert sun from Camp Bilad and  
15 heading to Camp Pennsylvania; and

16 WHEREAS, Sergeant Knighten fell ill during the course of the mission due to heat-  
17 related causes and died serving his country bravely and with uncommon valor as he moved  
18 troops and supplies in the war on terror.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
20 does hereby express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a  
21 grateful state and nation to the family of United States Army National Guard Sergeant Floyd  
22 G. Knighten, Jr., for fighting America's enemies in a faraway land.

23 THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be  
24 transmitted to the wife and son of Sergeant Floyd G. Knighten, Jr.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

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#### DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army National Guard Sergeant Floyd G. Knighten, Jr.